

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1730
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
EDUCATION FOR DEAF/DUMB
AMBATI BRAHMANIAH

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the deaf and dumb segment of the population do not have adequate access to education in the country;
- (b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government for setting up special educational facilities for them;
- (c) funds allocated and spent during the current year and the last three years;
- (d) whether the Government plan to encourage private organizations and State Government to establish special schools and colleges for deaf and dumb children; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) conducted National Sample Survey 47th Round : July-December, 1991. Literates for the purpose of this survey were those who could read and write a simple message with understanding. Those who were unable to do so were considered as illiterate. In rural India about 70% of persons with disabilities, including speech and hearing impaired, are found illiterate as against 46% in the urban India. Only about 4% of the persons with disabilities, including speech and hearing impaired, in rural India have reported educational level (secondary and above) as against about 12% in urban India. There is an urban bias in literacy. It is more pronounced in the persons with disabilities probably because of full and better educational facilities in general and existence of special schools for the persons with disabilities in the urban sector in particular.

(b) to (e) There are more than 550 special schools for speech and hearing impaired. The level of special schools is pre-primary, primary, secondary and higher education. In order to meet the requirement of trained teachers, a number of training courses, such as, diploma, degree and post-graduate level are being conducted by various Teachers Training Institutions.

As per National Education Policy and also under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, children with disabilities are to be given education in general schools as far as possible. To facilitate this process, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education is operating a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) which provides educational opportunities for disabled children (both boys and girls) in the general school system to facilitate their retention and ultimate integration in this system. Under the scheme, assistance is given for books and stationery, uniforms, salary of resource teachers, helpers and training of teachers, etc. At present, the scheme is being operated in 28 States and UTs. During the current year, 2000-2001, the budget provision (Plan) of Rs. 15.00 crore has been made for this scheme. Out of this, Rs. 4.50 crore has been spent till 26.7.2000. The grant-in-aid released during last three years, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is Rs. 998.63 lakhs, Rs. 880.18 lakhs and Rs. 1,290.02 lakhs respectively.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is also implementing Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities under which voluntary organizations are given grant-in-aid for, inter alia, running special schools-cum-Vocational Training Centres for children with disabilities, including speech and hearing impaired. During the current year, 2000-2001, grant-in-aid of Rs. 2.26 crore has been sanctioned to voluntary organizations working in the field of speech and hearing impaired. During 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, Rs. 7.74 crore, Rs. 3.45 crore and Rs. 7.61 crore respectively were released.